February 1, 2025

The Waltz

"The Waltz" is a captivating etching created by the renowned Swedish artist Anders Zorn in 1891. This piece is the second state of three and is part of a collection that resides at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, thanks to the bequest of Blanche S. Guggenheim in 1953. The etching measures 13 5/16 × 8 15/16 inches for the plate and 17 3/16 × 11 13/16 inches for the sheet, showcasing Zorn's exquisite attention to detail and mastery of the medium. Zorn's work often reflects his fascination with social settings and the dynamics of personal interactions, which is beautifully exemplified in "The Waltz." The etching was inspired by an oil

painting that Zorn had previously completed in Paris, which was later acquired by an American art collector. In his autobiographical notes, Zorn expressed his desire to capture the movement and energy of the society balls he attended in Paris, where the crowded ballrooms often led dancers to seek more intimate spaces for a peaceful dance. This sentiment is elegantly conveyed in the etching, where Zorn himself is depicted dancing with Märta Petrini, a Swedish opera singer, in the foreground, while in the background, Emma Zorn is portrayed being led by the artist Louis Sparre. The artwork's title, "The Waltz," not only refers to the dance but also to the fluidity and grace with which Zorn approached his art. His ability to depict

movement and emotion on a static medium is a testament to his skill as an artist and his deep understanding of human expression. The etching is a valuable piece of art history, offering insight into Zorn's artistic process and the cultural milieu of the time. It remains a significant work within Zorn's oeuvre and continues to enchant viewers with its timeless elegance and historical significance.